

75-153

17 March 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting with Jack Boos, House Select Committee Staff Member, 14 March 1975

1. [] and I met with Mr. Boos at 2:30 PM on Friday, 14 March 1975 in his office in the Rayburn House Office Building. The meeting lasted approximately two hours.

2. [] left with Mr. Boos copies of (1) the CIA Employee Notice with the Director's letter to Senator Church attached; (2) a list of the USIB Principals on the Ad Hoc Committee; (3) a list of specific items, such as security, that [] wanted to discuss with Mr. Boos and that would subsequently be finalized by Mr. Nedzi and Mr. Colby; and (4) a copy of []'s letter to Bill Miller of the Senate Select Committee Staff outlining various security and procedural matters.

3. Mr. Boos could not be characterized as cordial. His first query was "How soon will you invoke executive privilege?" [] said that it was the DCI's intent and hope to avoid any confrontation between the Committee and the Executive Branch. He explained the Third Agency Rule, but said that as far as CIA documents are concerned, the Director intends to be forthcoming with the Committee--with the exceptions outlined in his letter to Senator Church. Boos commented that these exceptions are so broad as to encompass nearly anything. [] gave him an explanation of the exceptions. Boos asked about the "Vail Report" and the DCI's oral briefing to Mr. Ford. [] said the "Vail Report" was a White House document. I am not sure Boos was reassured that the Committee and its Staff would have the access they think they need.

MORI/CDH

25X1 4. [] and Mr. Boos reviewed the security provisions outlined in the DCI's letter to Senator Church. Mr. Boos seemed somewhat confused on the matter of secrecy agreements for the Staff. He was at first negative, but he later seemed to think such arrangements were possible when he realized that the agreements would be executed between the Staff and the Committee, not between the Staff and the Executive Branch.

25X1 5. Mr. Boos expressed concern that the DCI's release of CIA employees from their secrecy agreements was too narrowly drawn. He said he particularly wanted to know how the Committee was to deal with "walk-in" volunteers from the Agency. He also said he wanted to know what arrangements would be made for the Committee to interview officers under cover and asked if a safe-house were necessary. [] said he thought most such interviews could be arranged in a secure location, possibly CIA Headquarters.

25X1 6. [] said that he hoped Mr. Boos would get in touch with Mr. Moore of the USIB Security Committee and Mr. Kane of CIA Security regarding physical security of Committee rooms and files. Mr. Boos said he would do so, but pointed out that the House Committee will have unusual problems because it will be using several rooms rather than one central facility as the Senate Committee has.

25X1 7. Mr. Boos assured us that personal staff of Committee members will not have access to the Select Committee's files unless they are hired by the Committee itself. He also said Committee Staff members will not be dealing with the press, and that any press relations would be conducted directly by the Chairman--or by individual members.

25X1 8. [] and Mr. Boos agreed that it was important to define the types of documents that the Committee could not transport to its own offices. In this regard, [] indicated there was 25X1 great sensitivity within the CIA to permitting any listing of CIA officers under cover to leave the Headquarters building. Mr. Boos asked if the Committee could have access to Agency facilities abroad. [] assumed they could travel overseas, within proper security guidelines. Mr. Boos indicated a particular interest in having the Committee look into the Defense Attache program overseas. [] said he was sure the Intelligence Community would be cooperative in these matters, and suggested that the Committee work through DoD on the Attache program.

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25X1 9. Mr. Boos discussed the "assassination allegations" and said the Committee would want to investigate this area very thoroughly. He asked whether the Agency was not particularly sensitive in this area because the "tracks would lead back to the good guys." [redacted] expressed puzzlement at the question--and Mr. Boos made it clear he thought that the Agency might be pressured to cover up its presumed involvement in the assassination and involvement of "good guys," in the decision process, i. e., President Kennedy and Senator Robert Kennedy.

10. In closing Mr. Boos agreed on our perception of the Committee's key problem: i. e., the House Rule permitting any member to have access to material collected. He said Mr. Nedzi had not decided finally how to handle this issue, and he clearly realized it was a matter of critical importance. He also implied that the make-up of the Committee was likely to cause "some difficulties" in security matters.

25X1 11. [redacted] reviewed with Mr. Boos the various types of compartmented clearances used in the Intelligence Community. He said that such clearances would be issued when the Chairman of the Committee certified that a specific Staff member had a clear need-to-know. Mr. Boos seemed to understand the principle of compartmentation, but I believe he views compartmentation as a way for the Intelligence Community to hold out information from the Committee.

12. As is clear from the above, Mr. Boos--while personally cordial and polite--appears to be laboring under the belief that the CIA and the Intelligence Community are going to find loopholes to keep the Committee from having access to sensitive matters. Many of his questions and his apparent assumptions suggest that he is taking particular caution in developing a cordial working relationship, recognizing the adversary nature of the problem. He does not reflect Mr. Nedzi's will in this respect.

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